



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	Eaton Park-Big Canyon Park Fuel Reduction		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Eaton Park and Big Canyon Park, City of San Carlos, California (Un-sectioned portions of T5S, R4W, Mt. Diablo Base & Meridian (-122° 16.367', 37° 28.983'))	<b>COUNTY</b>	San Mateo
<b>LEAD AGENCY</b>	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes to reduce surface and ladder fuels within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) through the use of hand crews, chippers, goat grazing, and masticators. Fuel reduction will include the treatment of grasses, forbs, brush, small trees, and downed, dead material. Up to 11 small-diameter bay trees may also be removed to help prevent the spread of the sudden oak death pathogen (*Phytophthora ramorum*). These fuel reduction treatments will be used to create a mosaic of retained vegetation on up to 77 acres within portions of Eaton and Big Canyon Parks. Some areas will not be treated due to the presence of cut banks, light fuel loads, steep slopes, riparian set-backs and/or equipment limitations.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce fuel loads and vertical and horizontal fuel continuity within the WUI in a densely-populated area of the City of San Carlos. Terrain in the proposed project area is steep and portions of the proposed project area are covered with extremely dense brush. Both Eaton and Big Canyons Parks are located in areas classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Within Big Canyon Park, the proposed project will utilize goat grazing, hand crews, and chippers. Within Eaton Park, the proposed project will utilize goat grazing, masticators, hand crews, and chippers to treat vegetation. Hand crews will utilize hand tools for thinning, chipping, and spreading material on site, however, the project proponent anticipates very limited availability of hand crews within the proposed project timeframe. The chipper will be operated on the road shoulder or on existing trails and on slopes <30% in the proposed project area. Up to 400 goats will be moved every day through the proposed project area. The goats will be fenced with temporary 3 foot high electric wire fencing which are supported by ½ inch ground stakes. The fencing is portable and will be adjusted daily to prevent over grazing. Grazing will occur on slopes up to 40%. Masticators may be used where they can operate on existing roads or slopes <30%, avoiding riparian areas. The objective will be to disrupt the horizontal and vertical continuity of surface fuels. The mower disc shall not be allowed to contact the ground and shall be kept a minimum of 4 inches from the soil surface. A spotter shall be used to inspect the ground in advance of the masticator. The masticator shall minimize the number of turns outside the running surface of the existing native surface road. The masticator shall track straight into and track straight out of the area to be cleared to the extent feasible.

Live vegetation less than 6 inches in diameter may be cut and chipped. Staging areas will be located in turnouts, parking areas, or existing clearings within the parks. No large diameter (>10 inches DBH) or overstory trees are proposed to be removed. No limbs 6 inches diameter or greater will be removed from large diameter oaks. Brush will be treated in a mosaic pattern, leaving trees and larger brush specimens interspersed throughout the treated fuel break area for maintenance of aesthetics and visual screens. The proposed project does not include the use of herbicides or removal of any vegetative material from the site, except for control of invasive species. Goat herds will be quarantined for a minimum of 24 hours prior turnout. Known invasive species include black acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) and their removal will be a high priority in the treatment areas.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- |                                     |   |                       |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption                         | Type/Section: Class 4 | §15304 Minor Alterations to Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Statutory Exemption (state code section):     |                       |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)             |                       |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))   |                       |                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) |                       |                                  |



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### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The work proposed is a minor alteration to vegetation which does not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees and is consistent with Categorical Exemption Class 4 - Minor Alterations to Land. No activity is proposed that is listed as a limitation under CCR 15300.2 (a-f).

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit Headquarters, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018.

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### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 04 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

8/29/18

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Helge Enge, Deputy Director      Date  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection